

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PRETOR 00959 111539Z

47/50

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 TRSE-00

CU-04 DRC-01 OMB-01 /156 W
----- 059020

R 081445Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9401

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 0959

(CORRECTED COPY - OMISSION LAST THREE ADDRESSEES
ORIGINAL TRANSMISSION)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, SF

SUBJECT: A COMMENT ON SIGNIFICANCE OF MEETING BETWEEN
HOMELAND LEADERS AND VORSTER

REF: PRETORIA 0942

1. OUTCOME OF MARCH 6 MEETING BETWEEN HOMELAND LEADERS AND
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PRETOR 00959 111539Z

PM VORSTER REPRESENTS SOME ADVANTAGES FOR ALL CONCERNED.

BY CONSULTING WITH BLACK LEADERS, VORSTER EFFECTIVELY ANSWERED LIBERAL CRITICS WHO HAVE CHARGED HIM WITH ABJECT FAILURE TO DO JUST THAT. POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF THIS FOR VORSTER LIES NOT SO MUCH IN DEFLATING OPPOSITION UNITED PARTY'S ACCUSATION THAT SAG'S RACE POLICIES CONSTITUTE SECURITY RISK FOR SOUTH AFRICA, AS IT DOES IN MOLLIFYING DISQUIET AND CRITICISM ON THIS ISSUE WHICH HAS BEEN INCREASINGLY MANIFEST AMONG RELATIVELY LIBERAL SUPPORTERS OF NATIONAL PARTY (NP) ITSELF.

2. VORSTER ABLE HAVE CAKE AND EAT IT TOO, FOR HE GAVE NOTHING TO BLACKS WHICH COULD ALARM CONSERVATIVE, WHITE SUPREMACIST MAJORITY OF ELECTORATE. TO OFFSET ANY POSSIBLE INTERPRETATION TO THE CONTRARY, SECRETARY FOR INFORMATION DR. ESCHEL RHOODIE ISSUED STATEMENT MARCH 6 TAKING CERTAIN NEWSPAPERS, ESPECIALLY RAND DAILY MAIL, TO TASK FOR DISTORTING THE MEANING OF CERTAIN PORTIONS OF JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED AFTER MEETING (REFTEL). FOR EXAMPLE, MAIL, DIE BURGER, OGGENBLAD, AND DIE TRANSVALER HAD REPORTED THAT VORSTER AGREED SET UP A COMMISSION OF EXPERTS TO INVESTIGATE WAGE GAP BETWEEN BLACK AND WHITE WORKERS. RHOODIE POINTED OUT THAT POST-MEETING JOINT STATEMENT SAID ONLY THAT EXPERTS "WOULD INVESTIGATE THE ALLEGATION THAT THE BANTU PEOPLE IN GENERAL, AND THE HOMELAND GOVERNMENTS IN PARTICULAR, ARE NOT GETTING A FAIR SHARE OF SERVICES FROM TAXES PAID DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY BY THE BANTU." RHOODIE SAID FLATLY THAT "THE WAGE GAP IS NOT BEING INVESTIGATED." (FULL TEXT OF JOINT STATEMENT AND RHOODIE'S REMARKS BY POUCH.)

3. FOR THEIR PART, HOMELAND LEADERS SEEM SATISFIED THAT MEETING REPRESENTS REAL PROGRESS ON RACIAL ISSUE. THIS INDICATED BY GAZANKULU CHIEF MINISTER NTSANWISI'S MOTION AT CONCLUSION OF MEETING (PARA 3 REFTEL). IN ADDITION, CHIEF GATSHA BUTHELEZI OF KWAZULU HAS COMMENTED TO PRETORIA NEWS REPORTER THAT MEETING WAS MOST IMPORTANT DISCUSSION EVER HELD IN SA BETWEEN WHITE AND BLACK LEADERS. HE SAID HE PLEASED THAT DISCUSSIONS WOULD CONTINUE TO TAKE PLACE AND THAT HE PARTICULARLY EXCITED ABOUT FACT THAT A FULL DAY WILL BE SET ASIDE AT FUTURE DATE FOR MEETING BETWEEN VORSTER AND HOMELAND LEADERS WHICH WILL BE DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO QUESTION OF URBAN BLACKS.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PRETOR 00959 111539Z

4. COMMENT: WHILE SOME, ESPECIALLY IN THIS COUNTRY, MAY HERALD MEETING AS AUSPICIOUS BEGINNING OF "REAL AND MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE" BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICAN BLACKS AND WHITES, IN OUR OPINION MEETING AND ITS RESULTS SHOULD BE REGARDED WITH FAR MORE CAUTION. AS WE EXPECTED (CAPE TOWN 0150), CONCRETE, DEMONSTRABLE RESULTS NOT ACHIEVED, AND CERTAINLY IT WOULD BE UNWISE AT THIS POINT TO READ TOO MUCH INTO THE MEANING OF

MEETING'S OUTCOME. BUT, AS WE HAVE SAID BEFORE, MERE FACT THAT MEETING TOOK PLACE IS STEP FORWARD AND, MOREOVER, THE FURTHER DISCUSSIONS THAT ARE PLANNED WILL INEVITABLY HAVE TO COME TO GRIPS WITH BASIC PROBLEMS SUCH AS DISCRIMINATION, INFLUX CONTROLS, ETC. IT WILL BE THEN (SOME TIME AFTER DUST OF FORTHCOMING GENERAL ELECTION SETTLES) THAT A CLEARER PICTURE WILL EMERGE OF TRUE SIGNIFICANCE OF MARCH 6 PRETORIA MEETING AND ITS AFTERMATH.
HURD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, APARTHEID, MEETING AGENDA, LAND SETTLEMENT, EDUCATION, WAGES, MEETINGS, POLITICAL LEADERS, PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, TRAVEL CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PRETOR00959
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740357/aaaacbjl.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: PRETORIA 0942
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 JUN 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <27 JUN 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: A COMMENT ON SIGNIFICANCE OF MEETING BETWEEN HOMELAND LEADERS AND VORSTER
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, SF, (VORSTER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005